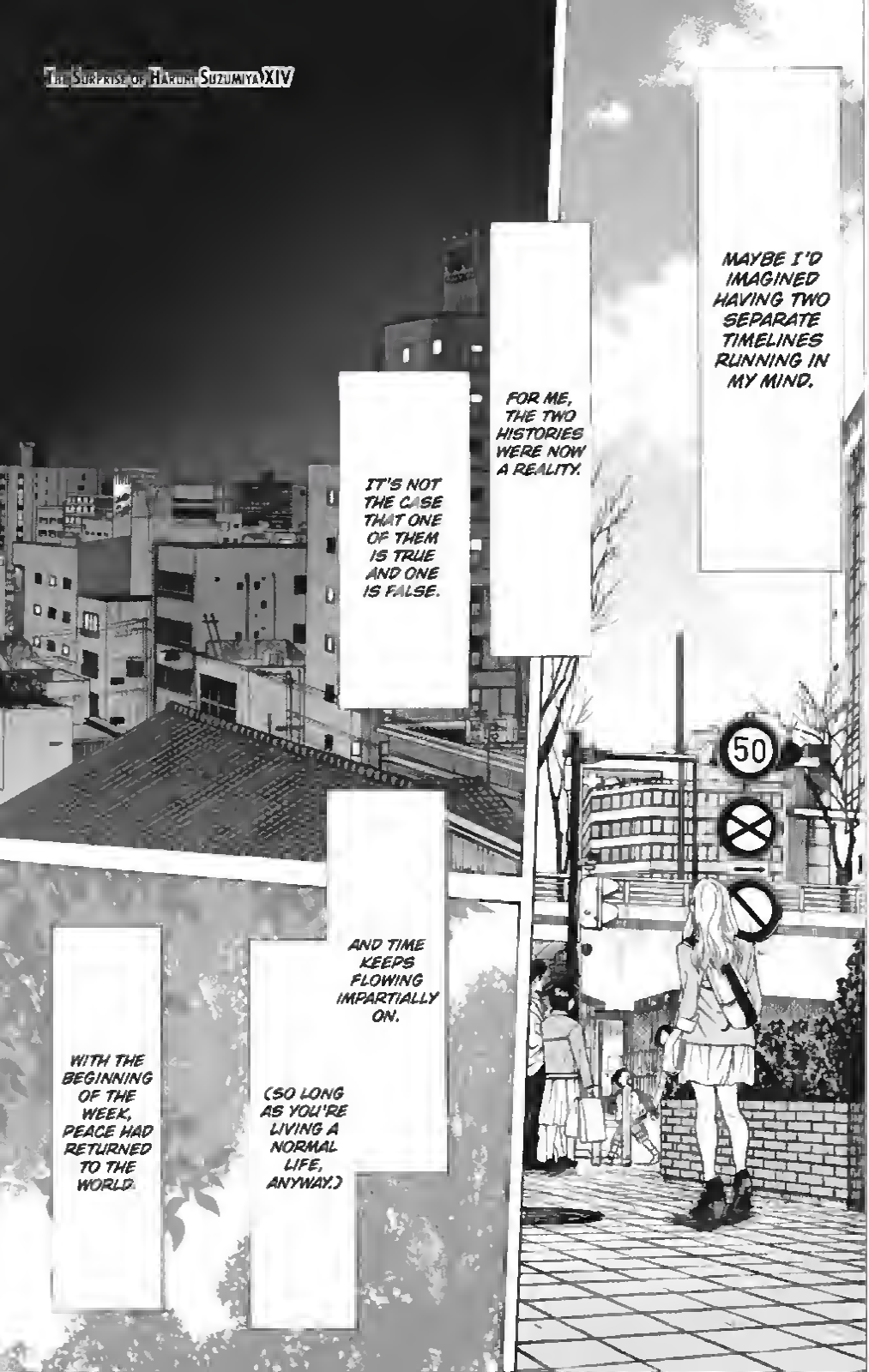
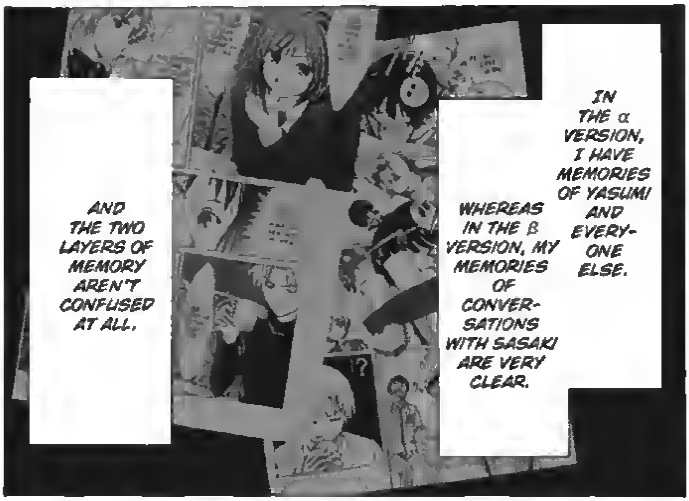
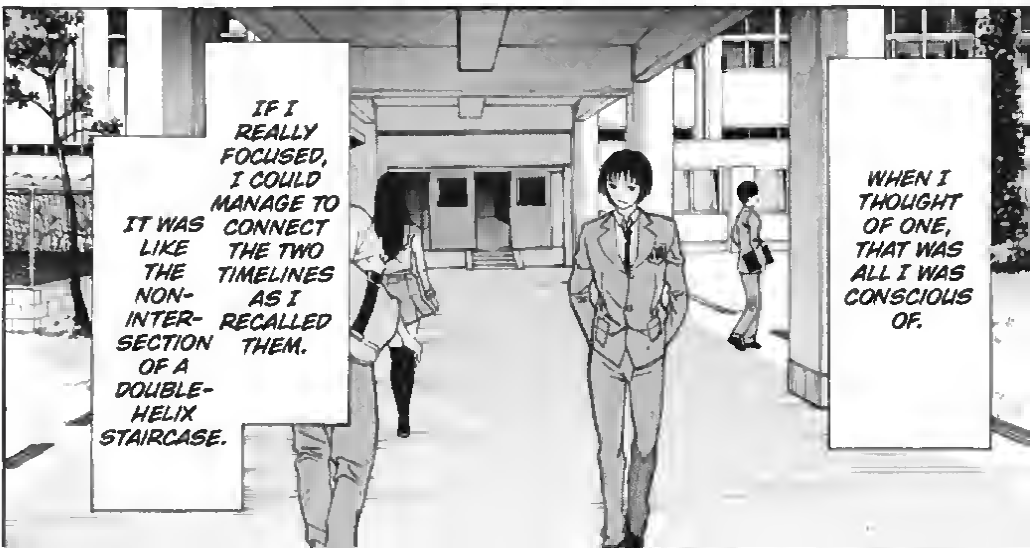

MAYBE I'D IMAGINED HAVING TWO SEPARATE TIMELINES RUNNING IN MY MIND.
FOR ME, THE TWO HISTORIES WERE NOW A REALITY.
IT'S NOT THE CASE THAT ONE OF THEM IS TRUE AND ONE IS FALSE.
50
AND TIME KEEPS FLOWING IMPARTIALLY ON.
(SO LONG AS YOU'RE LIVING A NORMAL LIFE, ANYWAY.)
WITH THE BEGINNING OF THE WEEK, PEACE HAD RETURNED TO THE WORLD.

A new Monday succeeded that busy, eventful week.
But I wasn't the only one who'd gone through this dissociated series of events.

NO MATTER HOW MUCH I RETHINK THEM, THERE ARE NO DISCREPANCIES BETWEEN THE TWO.
I HAD BOTH SETS OF MEMORIES IN MY HEAD—ONE OF HER FELLED BY THE FEVER AND ANOTHER WHERE SHE WAS FINE.

NAGATO RECOVERED AND BEGAN ATTENDING SCHOOL AS THOUGH NOTHING HAD HAPPENED.

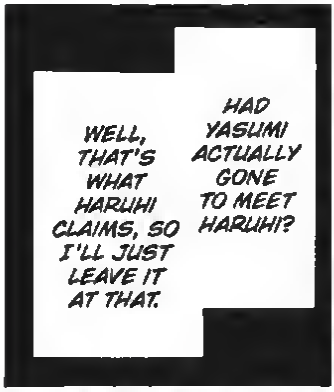

AND THE TWO LAYERS OF MEMORY AREN'T CONFUSED AT ALL.
WHEREAS IN THE β VERSION, MY MEMORIES OF CONVERSATIONS WITH SASAKI ARE VERY CLEAR.
IN THE α VERSION, I HAVE MEMORIES OF YASUMI AND EVERYONE ELSE.


IT WAS LIKE THE NON-INTERSECTION OF A DOUBLE-HELIX STAIRCASE.
IF I REALLY FOCUSED, I COULD MANAGE TO CONNECT THE TWO TIMELINES AS I RECALLED THEM.
WHEN I THOUGHT OF ONE, THAT WAS ALL I WAS CONSCIOUS OF.

ABOUT YESTERDAY...
...YASUMI-CHAN CAME BY MY HOUSE.
SHE SAID SHE WAS REALLY SORRY BUT THAT SHE HAD TO DECLINE HER BRIGADE MEMBERSHIP.
TA (TUP) TA
I WAS REALLY SURPRISED.
APPARENTLY SHE'S STILL IN MIDDLE SCHOOL!
OH-HO.
SORRY...
SO THAT EXPLAINED IT.
TURNS OUT HER SISTER GRADUATED FROM NORTH HIGH, SO YASUMI BORROWED HER UNIFORM.
SHE JUST HAD TO JOIN THE SOS BRIGADE.
SHE'LL PROBABLY BE ABLE TO GET ADMITTED TO NORTH HIGH WITHOUT ANY TROUBLE ...
GUDEN (CLATTER)
...BUT CAN YOU BELIEVE SHE'D PULL A PRANK LIKE THAT?

AND THE WEATHER'S NICE TODAY, SO I GUESS I CAN'T COMPLAIN.
AND THE BRIGADE ENTRANCE EXAMI-NATIONS WERE FUN.
BUT YUKI'S BETTER NOW.

THAT'S WHY SHE HADN'T BEEN IN THE CLASSROOMS WHEN I'D GONE ALL OVER THE SCHOOL LOOKING FOR HER.
WHAT CLASS WAS SHE IN?
SO SHE HADN'T EVEN BEEN A NORTH HIGH STUDENT.


WELL, THAT'S WHAT HARUHI CLAIMS, SO I'LL JUST LEAVE IT AT THAT.
HAD YASUMI ACTUALLY GONE TO MEET HARUHI?

MUKU CMPHD
BY THE WAY.

IT MIGHT TAKE TWO OR THREE YEARS.
I FORGOT TO ASK WHAT YEAR SHE IS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL.

WON'T SHE BE PROP-ERLY ENTERING HIGH SCHOOL NEXT YEAR, THOUGH?
JUST RE-ADMIT HER TO THE BRIGADE WITHOUT ANOTHER EXAM WHEN THAT TIME COMES.

SHE WAS GETTING MORE PERCEPTIVE WITH AGE.
AND SHE'S TOTALLY RIGHT.
DID YOU MEET WITH ANYONE THIS SATURDAY? OR, LIKE, MAKE SOME KIND OF PLAN BEHIND MY BACK...
YOU'RE NOT HIDING ANYTHING FROM ME, ARE YOU?
I DIDN'T DO ANY-THING.
I SLEPT FOR HALF OF SATURDAY AND TOOK SHAMISEN IN FOR IMMUNIZATIONS ON SUNDAY.
I SEE.
THAT'S FINE, THEN
HEY, HARUHI.
SAY THERE WAS A TIME MACHINE.
IF THE YOU FROM A FEW YEARS IN THE FUTURE MET YOUR CURRENT SELF...
...WHAT DO YOU THINK YOUR FUTURE SELF WOULD SAY?

HUH?
I GUESS IN A FEW YEARS I'LL BE A COLLEGE STUDENT.
SO, PROBABLY...
...I'D BE THE ONE TO LOOK AT MY FUTURE SELF AND TELL HER SHE HASN'T CHANGED AT ALL.

I MEAN, I'M PRETTY CONFIDENT THAT MY VALUES AREN'T GOING TO CHANGE IN JUST TWO OR THREE YEARS.
BUT WHY DO YOU ASK?
I WAS JUST WONDERING.
I GOT TO THINKING ABOUT WHAT KIND OF PERSON MY FUTURE SELF IS GOING TO BE.

WELL, DON'T WORRY.
YOU'LL PROBABLY BE THE SAME AS YOU ARE NOW.
OR ARE YOU SAYING YOU'RE MATURE ENOUGH NOW TO LECTURE YOUR MIDDLE SCHOOL SELF?
I CAN'T ARGUE WITH THAT.

BUT HARUHI.
WHEN MY JUST-BARELY SECOND-YEAR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT SELF TRAVELS THROUGH TIME AND MEETS THE FUTURE YOU, I HOPE YOU'LL BE NICE TO ME.
I HOPE YOU'LL GIVE ME THE GENTLE SMILE I REMEMBER SEEING.
THAT GOES FOR MY FUTURE SELF TOO.

THEN...
MY MEMORIES OF EACH PERSON IN THE SPLIT WORLD HAD BEEN FUSED SUCH THAT THERE WEREN'T ANY INCONSIS-TENCIES.
OF COURSE, MOST PARTS OF EACH WORLD, BOTH α AND β, WERE THE SAME.
SO BESIDES THE SOS BRIGADE, THE ONLY PARTS THAT WERE DIFFERENT INVOLVED TANIGUCHI, KUNIKIDA, SASAKI, AND TACHIBANA.
WE ENDED UP WITH ZERO NEW CLUB MEM-BERS.
PACHIN (SNAP)
THAT SETTLED THINGS NICELY.
INCIDEN-TALLY...
...JUST AS THE EVER-PERCEPTIVE HARUHI HAD GUESSED, I HAD HOSTED KOIZUMI AND NAGATO ON SUNDAY.
KNOCK IT OFF
I GUESS I MIGHT AS WELL TALK ABOUT THAT.

I HAD A PILE OF QUESTIONS I WANTED TO ASK THEM.
ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED AFTER HARUHI AND I FELL INTO THE CELESTIAL'S PALM AND GOT SENT INTO THE FUTURE.
WHAT HAD HAPPENED IN THE CLUB ROOM AFTER THAT? HOW HAD THE TWO WORLDS BEEN RECON-NECTED?
IT'S YUKI AND KOIZUMI-KUN! WELCOME!
HEY!
WHAT HAPPENED TO FUJIWARA AND KUYOH AND TACHIBANA?
AND JUST WHO WAS YASUMI WATAHASHI?
AW, GEEZ!
SHOO, SHOO!
SO WHERE SHALL I BEGIN?

I KNEW INSTANTLY WHERE SUZUMIYA-SAN HAD GONE, BUT...
WHAT?
ギ
GI (KREAK)
BUT FIRST, I'D LIKE TO HEAR YOUR SIDE OF THE STORY.
BOFU (WHUMP)
ボフ
YOU AND SUZUMIYA-SAN BOTH DISAPPEARED RIGHT IN FRONT OF US.
SHE WAS IN HER HOUSE.
IN BOTH α AND β, SHE RETURNED HOME LIKE NORMAL.
JUST LIKE THAT.
SHE MIGHT HAVE FELT FAINTLY UNEASY.
BUT THAT'S NOT MUCH OF A PROB-LEM.
...NAGATO.
IS YOUR FEVER DOWN?
DID YOU MANAGE TO COMPLETE ANY, UH...
...HIGH-LEVEL COMMU-NICATION OR WHAT-EVER?

THAT HAS BEEN TEMPO-RARILY ABORTED.
BOTH THE DATA OVERMIND AND THE HEAVENLY CANOPY DOMAIN...
NADEN (PET)
ナデナデ
NADEN
...DETERMINED THAT EACH HAD RECEIVED THE MINIMUM NECESSARY AMOUNT OF INFORMATION.
MY ABILITY TO RELAY INFORMATION HAS BEEN RECOGNIZED AS INSUFFICIENTLY ACCURATE FOR THE TASK.
I HAVE BEEN RELIEVED OF THAT DUTY.
MY NEW ORDERS ...
...ARE TO PASSIVELY OBSERVE AND REPORT ON HARUHI SUZUMIYA AND KUYOH SUOH.

NOT NECESSARILY.
WE HAVE MOVED ON TO PHASE TWO OF A PLAN TO ACHIEVE MUTUAL UNDER-STANDING.
SO THE HEAVENLY CANOPY DOMAIN STOPPED MESSING WITH YOU, AND YOU GOT BETTER?
ANYWAY, I'M JUST HAPPY YOU'RE BACK TO NORMAL.

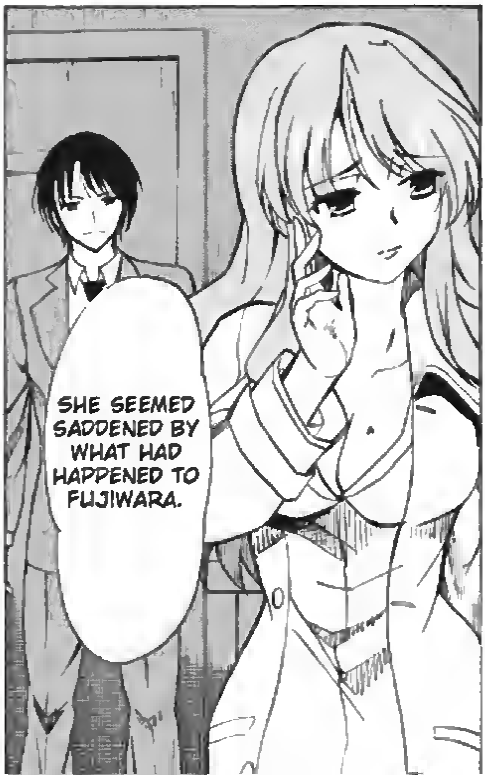
...BUT THEY WILL UNDOUBTEDLY PERFORM BETTER THAN I DID.
I HAVE NOT BEEN INFORMED WHICH INDIVIDUAL WILL BE SUCCEEDING ME...
I WAS MERELY JUDGED INSUFFICIENT FOR THE TASK OF CONDUCTING COMMUNICATION FOR PHASE ONE.

SHE IS CURRENTLY ATTENDING KOUYOUEN GIRLS' ACADEMY.
SHE HAS NOT DISAP-PEARED.
WAIT A SECOND.
DOES THAT MEAN KUYOH IS STILL IN THIS WORLD?
IS SHE FEELING BAD ABOUT IT?
THEY SHOULD'VE JUST LET KIMIDORI-SAN HANDLE IT FROM THE BEGINNING.

HER PRIMARY GOAL IS TO ACHIEVE AUTONOMY, WHICH WILL TAKE SOME TIME.
AND FUJIWARA?
I DOUBT WE'LL SEE HIM AGAIN.
...MAYBE IT WOULD BE MORE ACCURATE TO SAY THAT HE'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO TRAVEL BACK TO OUR PRESENT AGAIN.
OR...
IT SEEMS THAT HIS FUTURE TIMELINE WAS SEVERED.
SUZUMIYA-SAN CREATED A NEW TIME FAULT.
ASAHINA THE ELDER EXPLAINED IT ALL TO ME.

IT WAS A RATHER FAMILIAR SCENE FOR ME.
AFTER THAT, THE CLOSED SPACE COMPLETELY COLLAPSED.

IMMEDIATELY AFTER YOU AND SUZUMIYA DISAPPEARED, THE CELESTIAL STARTED TO DISINTEGRATE.


SHE SEEMED SADDENED BY WHAT HAD HAPPENED TO FUJIWARA.

ONLY MYSELF, ASAHINA THE ELDER, AND KYOKO TACHIBANA WERE LEFT.

SO KUYOH AND FUJI-WARA WERE GONE?
WHAT DID YOU TALK ABOUT WITH ASAHINA THE ELDER?

SHE DID SAY THAT HIS ACTIONS WERE HALF-IMPULSIVE ...
...AND THAT HE HAD PROBABLY BEEN USED TO PROTECT THE TIMELINE HE WAS ATTACHED TO.
THAT'S ABOUT ALL I CAN SAY.
I WONDER WHAT CHANGED FROM WHEN THEY WANTED TO INSTALL SASAKI AS THE NEW GOD.
WAS IT SOME KIND OF PROBLEM FOR ASAHINA THE ELDER'S FUTURE?
ASAHINA-SAN DID LET SLIP THAT EVEN IF THE SPACE-TIME CONTINUUM WERE COMPLETELY OVER-WRITTEN FROM THIS TIME PLANE...
...IT WOULD ALL END UP CONVERGING ANYWAY.
AND SHE SOUNDED SINCERE.

AFTER THAT, SHE...
...GAVE ME A SAD SMILE AND LEFT THE ROOM.
I FOLLOWED HER, BUT SHE WAS GONE.
I ASSUME SHE RETURNED TO THE FUTURE.
KYOKO TACHIBANA WAS STUNNED INTO SILENCE.
SHE HELD HER HEAD FOR A WHILE.
BUT EVENTUALLY, SHE CALMED DOWN AND JUST SLUMPED THERE.
SHE SEEMED DEEPLY DISAPPOINTED.
SHE WENT HOME, TOTALLY DEPRESSED.
I SUPPOSE HER BURDEN WAS A HEAVY ONE.

YOU LADIES' MAN, YOU.
SHE TEXTED ME SOON AFTER.
SHE SAID ...
(PI (BEEP)
BUT BEFORE WE PARTED WAYS...
EXCHANGED NUMBERS AND ADDRESSES WITH HER.
...THAT FOR VARIOUS REASONS, SHE WAS WITH-DRAWING FROM ALL THIS.
SHE SAID SHE SAW VERY CLEARLY THAT SHE COULDN'T KEEP UP WITH THESE ALIENS AND TIME TRAVELERS.
THOUGH APPARENTLY SHE WAS STILL GOING TO TRY TO FIGURE OUT SOMETHING SHE COULD DO.
DON'T WORRY.
IF SHE APPEARS AGAIN, WE'LL TAKE THE NECES-SARY MEA-SURES.

KYON KUN!
YUKI'S HERE!
CHA (CHAK)
I DOUBTED SASAKI WOULD BE SWEET-TALKED BY KYOKO TACHIBANA ANYTIME SOON.
Bye Bye...
YOU SEEM PRETTY HAPPY
I WONDER HOW THAT WILL GO.
SHE'S GOING TO TRY TO REMAIN SASAKI'S FRIEND.
MY GOOD-NESS.
PA (PUFF)
LET'S PLAY!
C'MON SHAMI, YOU TOO!
NAGATO HAD BEEN PETTING THE CAT THE ENTIRE TIME KOIZUMI AND I WERE TALKING.
SUKKU (STAND)
PERHAPS SHE'D READ THE SITUATION.
OR PERHAPS PLAYING WITH A CAT AND A GIRL WAS JUST MORE INTERESTING.

BUT WHY DID HARUHI'S CLOSED SPACE ALSO APPEAR?
I KNOW THAT THAT WAS SASAKI'S CLOSED SPACE BACK THERE.
THANKS TO HER, KOIZUMI AND I COULD NOW SPEAK ONE-ON-ONE.
THAT'S WEIRD, THOUGH.
AT THAT POINT, HARUHI WAS OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL, AND SHE SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN AWARE OF WHAT WAS HAPPENING TO US.
THERE'S NO ROOM FOR DOUBT THERE
SUZUMIYA AN INTENTIONALLY MADE THAT HAPPEN
TO LET ME IN.
AND TO BE ABLE TO CREATE A CELESTIAL.
WHAT WOULD YOU SAY...
...IF I TOLD YOU SHE WAS FULLY AWARE?

YASUMI WATA-HASHI, EH?
WHAT WAS SHE, ANY-WAY?
THERE WAS SOMEONE ELSE BESIDES US IN THAT SPACE, YOU KNOW.
SHE SUMMONED YOU AND ME TO THE CLUB ROOM.
SHE IS HARUHI SUZU-MIYA-SAN.
SHE IS AN ALTERNATE SELF CREATED BY SUZUMIYA-SAN.
IT WAS EXPLAINED TO US FROM THE VERY BEGINNING.
QUITE SIMPLY, IN FACT.

wata hashi
yasumizu
IF WE WRITE OUT THE KANJI FOR "YASUMI" AS "YASUMIZU," AS IT SHOULD BE WRITTEN...
CHA (CHIK)
IT'S A VERY SIMPLE ANA-GRAM.
"WATASHI WA SUZUMIYA." I AM SUZUMIYA.
wata ha shi
yasumizu
watashiha
suzumiya
SUZUMIYA UNCON-SCIOUSLY USED HER ABILITIES.
AS A PRECAUTION, YOU SEE.
THAT'S WHY THE WORLD WAS SPLIT.
ONE WAS THE WORLD AS IT ORIGINALLY WAS.
THE OTHER WAS A WORLD THAT DIDN'T EXIST.

DESPITE BEING UNAWARE OF IT, SHE SENSED THE DANGER.
ESSENTIALLY, SHE SAVED BOTH YOU AND NAGATO!..AND THE WORLD.
IF SHE HADN'T SPLIT REALITY, OUR ENEMIES WOULD'VE BEEN ABLE TO DO WITH YOU AS THEY PLEASED.

AS FOR WHEN IT BEGAN, I CAN ONLY SPECULATE, BUT...
...AT SOME POINT, SHE GUESSED WHAT WAS GOING TO HAPPEN.
THIS WAS SOME KIND OF MIRACLE. I SUPPOSE YOU COULD CALL IT AN UNCONSCIOUS PREDICTION.

I COULD ONLY ASSUME THAT THE WORLD SPLIT THE MOMENT I PUT THE RECEIVER TO MY EAR.
IT'S ME. M-E. ME.
INTO A WORLD WHERE SASAKI SPOKE TO ME AND ONE WHERE YASUMI DID.
α-1
β-1

SO FAR AS I COULD REMEMBER, THE WORLD HAD BEEN CONTINUOUS UNTIL THAT MOMENT IN THE BATH.

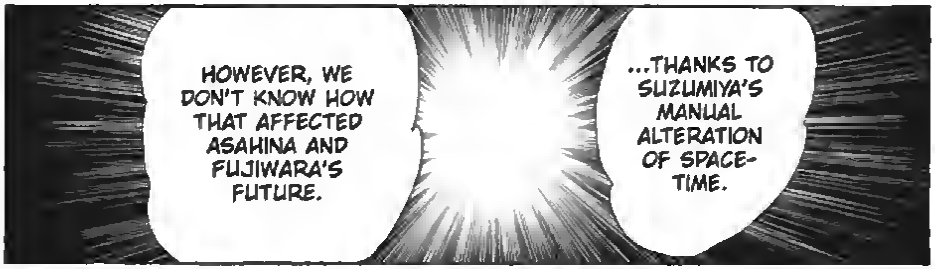
NOT ONLY DOES SHE NOT KNOW HER OWN POWER...
... SHE MAY NOT EVEN WANT TO KNOW, TO SAY NOTHING OF WHETHER THE KNOWL-EDGE IS ACCESSIBLE TO HER IN THE FIRST PLACE

SUZUMIYA-SAN WAS AWARE THAT A FUTURE AWAITED IN WHICH BOTH YOU AND NAGATO WERE IN DANGER.
THAT'S WHAT I'VE CALLED THE □ ROUTE, WHERE HER OTHER SELF APPEARED.
SO THAT'S WHERE SHE MADE HER MOVE.

YASUMI WATAHASHI WAS SUZUMIYA-SAN'S UNCONSCIOUS INSTANTIATION.
SHE IS NO MORE THAN A DREAM THAT DISAPPEARS UPON AWAKENING.
AND WHO KNOWS, WE MAY HAVE BEEN IN A DREAM-WORLD CREATED BY SUZUMIYA...
EVEN IF YASUMI WATAHASHI DID NOT DISAPPEAR BUT INSTEAD WAS REINTEGRATED INTO SUZUMIYA-SAN...
...SUZUMIYA-SAN HERSELF HAS NO KNOWLEDGE OF THAT.
...A SURREAL WORLD WHERE NEAR IMPOSSIBLE BECOMES REALITY.

WE KNOW FROM PERSONAL EXPERIENCE THAT IT'S POSSIBLE TO SPLIT THE TIMELINE...

WHAT ABOUT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FUJIWARA AND ASAHINA THE ELDER?
OR RATHER, THE TIME TRAVELERS' THEORY OF TIME.

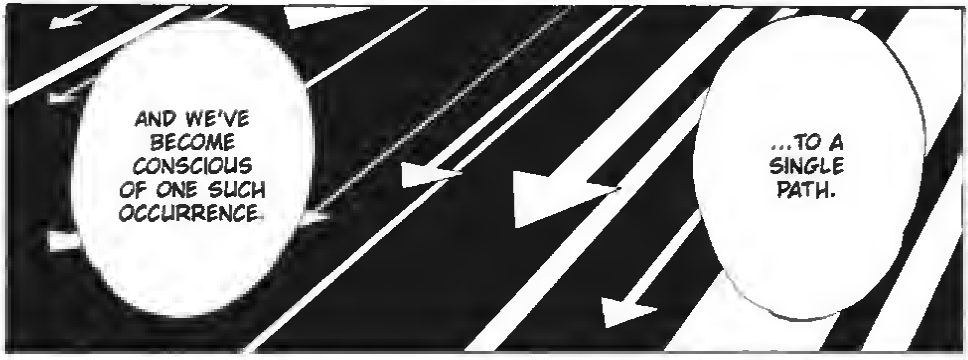

HOWEVER, WE DON'T KNOW HOW THAT AFFECTED ASAHINA AND FUJIWARA'S FUTURE.
...THANKS TO SUZUMIYA'S MANUAL ALTERATION OF SPACE-TIME.

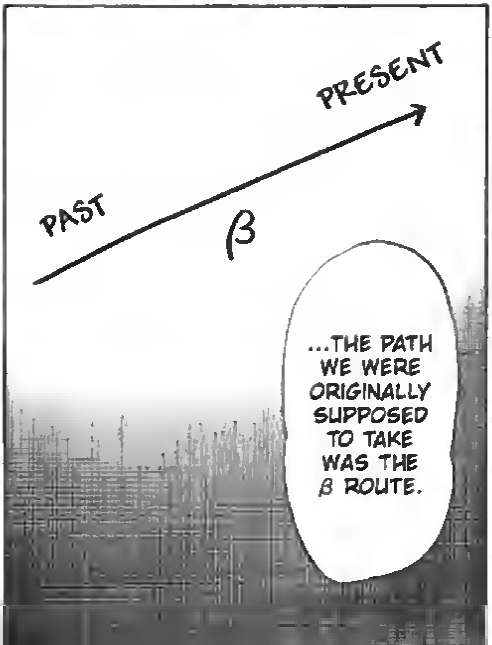
IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE "CLASSIFIED INFORMATION" IS THE ONLY REASON TIME TRAVELERS DON'T TALK ABOUT THEIR TRUE FEELINGS.

THEY COULD HAVE BEEN FROM THE SAME FUTURE OR INDIVIDUALS FROM DIFFERENT REALITIES...
...OR ONE OR BOTH OF THEM COULD HAVE BEEN LYING TO US.
THERE'S NO WAY TO KNOW FOR SURE

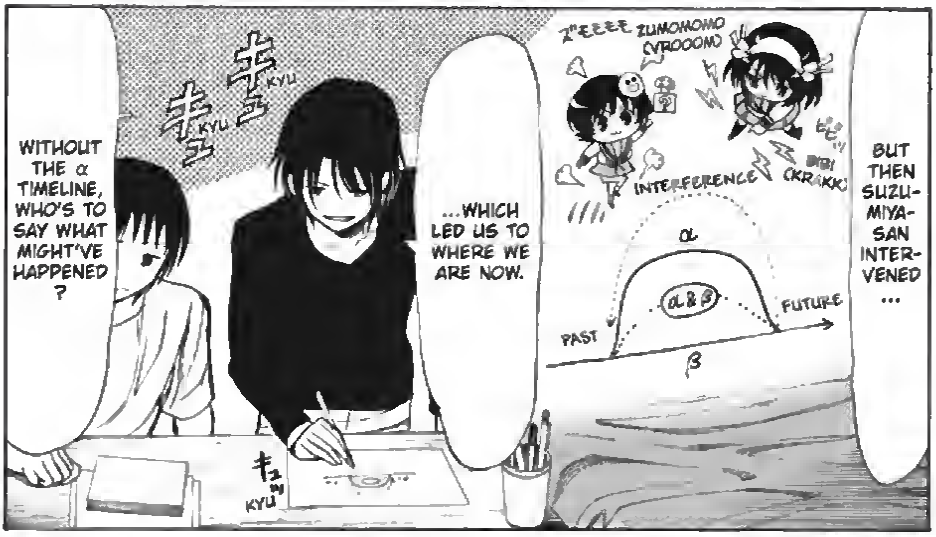
BUT THE DIVERGING ROUTES TO THOSE DESTI-NATIONS ARE LIMITED...
...AND THEY WILL EVENTUALLY RE-CONVERGE ...

THIS IS ONLY MY INTUITION, BUT...
...I FEEL THAT THE FUTURE IS SPLIT INTO MANY DIFFERENT PATHS.


AND WE'VE BECOME CONSCIOUS OF ONE SUCH OCCURRENCE.
...TO A SINGLE PATH.


PRESENT
PAST
β
...THE PATH WE WERE ORIGINALLY SUPPOSED TO TAKE WAS THE β ROUTE.

IF I WERE TO DRAW A DIAGRAM ...
THAT'S MY GUESS, ANY-WAY.
KYU (SQUEEK)


WITHOUT THE α TIMELINE, WHO'S TO SAY WHAT MIGHT'VE HAPPENED?
KYU
KYU
KYU
...WHICH LED US TO WHERE WE ARE NOW.
ZUMOHOMO (VROOOM)
INTERFERENCE
BIBI (KRAKK)
BUT THEN SUZUMIYA-SAN INTER-VENED...
α
α&β
PAST
FUTURE
β

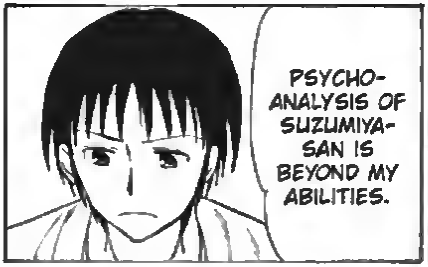
ASAHINA
FUJIWARA
KYU
KYU
ON THE OTHER HAND, IF ASAHINA-SAN AND FUJIWARA'S FUTURES ARE SEPARATE...
DIVERGING THANKS TO SOME EVENT, THEN CONVERGING AGAIN.
...THEN IT WOULD BE SOME-THING LIKE THIS.

ASAHINA
FUJIWARA
?
?
?
?
THERE IS ALSO THE POSSIBILITY THAT THERE ARE FUTURES THAT DO NOT CONVERGE, REMAINING FRAGMENTED.
ASAHINA-SAN MAY HAVE COME BACK IN ORDER TO PREVENT HER OWN WORLD FROM TAPERING OFF.
TO GUIDE THE FLOW OF TIME SUCH THAT IT LEADS TO HER FUTURE.

I'VE ALWAYS TAKEN A SKEPTICAL APPROACH TO THE HARUHI-AS-GOD THEORY...
IT'S A MIND-BOGGLING THOUGHT.

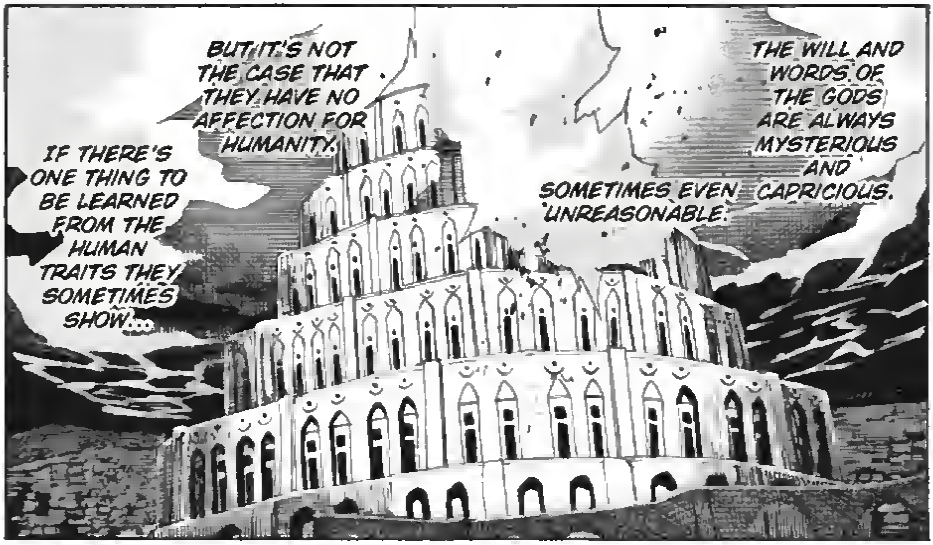
GOOD GRIEF.. AND SHE WAS INTERFERING WITH THIS STUFF?
IS HARUHI JUST ALL-POWERFUL?

...BUT, I MAY HAVE TO REVISE MY OPINION.
INSTEAD, SHE'S EVOLVING.
I WAS VERY WRONG TO SAY SHE WAS GRADUALLY LOSING HER POWER.


PSYCHO-ANALYSIS OF SUZUMIYA-SAN IS BEYOND MY ABILITIES.

THERE'S EVEN THE POSSIBILITY THAT SHE'S ABLE TO CONSCIOUSLY CONTROL HER POWER.
THE ACTIONS OF THE CELESTIAL SUGGEST AS MUCH.
ALTHOUGH SHE DOES STILL REMAIN UNAWARE... WHICH IS WHY IT'S SO AWE-INSPIRING

ALL THE MORE SO IF SHE'S UNDERGONE SOME KIND OF APOTHEOSIS.
GO READ UP ON YOUR MY-THOL-OGY.


IF THERE'S ONE THING TO BE LEARNED FROM THE HUMAN TRAITS THEY SOMETIMES SHOW...
BUT IT'S NOT THE CASE THAT THEY HAVE NO AFFECTION FOR HUMANITY.
SOMETIMES EVEN UNREASONABLE.
THE WILL AND WORDS OF THE GODS ARE ALWAYS MYSTERIOUS AND CAPRICIOUS.

THE SURPRISE OF HARUHI SUZUMIYA XIV : END

The Melancholy of Haruhi Suzumiya